

Mackenzie, John Joseph

Sept. 1915 - Feb. 1916  
(53)



September 10th, 1915,

Professor J. J. Mackenzie,  
Dysart Hotel, Henrietta Street, London.

Dear Professor Mackenzie:

I have to thank you for your long and interesting letter, which after reading I handed to the Dean. I am glad to know that you have at least got some advantage from the summer's work and that the disappointment that we all share with regard to the inactivity at the Hospital has been perhaps less in your case and that of Professor Brodie than with the staff physicians and surgeons. I suppose that the only answer we can make to those who complain to us is that the changed policy with regard to the big drive we were expecting has removed the necessity at present for the Hospital in full strength.

I have cabled to you to-day saying that the Board decides that you and Brodie should return. This is the view of the Dean and also of those associated in kindred subjects. We are looking for a good attendance in medicine. As you know the War Office recommends that third and fourth year students return and complete their work. We shall therefore require teaching to be done, and we believe that your services will be more needed here than in laboratory work on the other side. Any way if these Zeppelin raiders continue we might suffer the disadvantage of having you unduly seared by remaining in London too long. What folly it seems to be on the part of the Germans to think that by their frightfulness they will induce England to relax her efforts. It is probably the very thing

that England needs in order that she may realise what she is in for. I judge from your letter that in spite of all the Zeppelin diversions you are enjoying London very much.

Men are beginning to come back from the front now in such numbers that we get a good deal of insight into what they have had to face. Haywood's experiences have really been terrible. However, he wishes to go back and I believe most of them feel it their duty calls them in that direction.

We are to be short-handed in other Faculties as well as in Medicine this coming winter. I hope to see you in a few weeks so I shall not write at any further length. With kind regards,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.



TELEGRAPHIC AND CABLE ADDRESS:  
MEDSERCAN, LONDON.

TELEPHONE: ~~VICTORIA~~ 7668

REGENT { 556  
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OFFICE OF DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICE,  
Canadian Contingents,

~~36, VICTORIA STREET,~~

~~LONDON, S.W.~~

PLEASE NOTE  
CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

CECIL CHAMBERS,  
86, STRAND,

LONDON, W.C.

Wednesday Oct. 13

My Dear Mr President

Before you receive this you will have heard the news that the University Hospital was going to the Dardanelles. The cable from Ottawa in regard to the return of Professor Brodie and myself came about ten days ago. There were the usual delays in the office here and orders were only issued last Monday. We were preparing to catch the first Canadian Boat which sails on Friday (the Corsican). In the meantime the decision of the War Office to send no 4 to the East came out. Roberts and Primrose were very anxious to have me go with them. General Jones and Col. Drum and Col. Adams also thought that I was needed at whatever base they might be placed. So finally Col. Roberts cabled you. Today no answer has come as yet and I am in considerable doubt as to sailing Friday. I have finally decided



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CECIL CHAMBERS,

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~~LONDON, W.C.~~

As soon as an answer comes stating that  
I am needed in Toronto, but to delay sailing  
a week if no answer is received. The next  
boat is the Scandinavian.

Apparently Bacteriologists are  
being much needed in the trenches as 80%  
of the casualties are medical, here chiefly  
in types of Dysentery. In fact conditions are  
serious. Martin the Director of the British  
Institute has gone out as Pathologist to the  
Canadian Hospital at Lemnos. I hope  
the authorities understand my position.  
I wish to avoid embarrassing the University  
and yet if expert Bacteriologists are  
so necessary in the East I feel it is my  
duty to go.

At present I am working in  
this office, not much to do except  
Board work. The unit expects to sail the  
end of the week. Professor Brodie will  
sail on the Corsican. It is an eight-day  
voyage.

With kind regards

I remain

Yours sincerely

Andrew Kerr

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all good-bye.

With regards to

Mr. Palmer

I remain

Yours sincerely

Wm. Brewster

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S.S. "MINNEWASKA."

Sunday Dec 17

My Dear Mr. President

I got the message from  
Oleena cancelling my return  
last Sunday afternoon. It  
probably arrived Wednesday.

I was decidedly with  
ruined feelings, because I  
had left the Unit and had  
arranged my sailing for home.

My wife also was rather  
upset, though we have  
about it.

I got to Stockholm  
yesterday and we left  
here last night. We came  
on board this morning and

verities.

But I feel that the

U. of T. unit is being  
utilized with work which  
demands the utmost <sup>efficiency</sup> ~~care~~,  
and it is only fair to  
the people who were so good  
to us and to the University  
chief that we should accept  
the responsibility gladly and  
do our best.

I can assure you  
that is the spirit which  
permeates ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> rank and  
file. It will be competent to  
manage your chapter without  
the attention of our splendid  
nurses. I hope ~~we~~ many

will probably in twenty four  
hours. The nurses are not  
with us. The rumor is that  
they sail in a Hospital ship.  
which is much safer as  
we are a regular transport  
loaded with troops and  
munitions. I am very  
glad of the opportunity to  
use my special knowledge  
and every thing possible to  
the needy bacteriologists  
in the east. Dysentery is  
rife, mostly of the amoebic  
type and it will mean  
the almost-ignominy to  
protect our own personnel  
from infection. Typhus  
we are also almost-certain  
to see something of in the



cases due to other pathogen-  
form of Hepatitis. The  
significance of these cases  
have not been understood.

Are the Hepatitis cases  
widespread of endemic, but as  
far as I could see they were  
of a mild type. The faeces  
of the animals can easily  
different from what we see  
in Toronto. They are all  
unusually cases which  
probably explain the difference.  
The difference is that a  
good many develop dysentery  
after recovering from typhoid,  
and these men look terribly  
pale and anorectic  
Chlorine has not yet developed  
but it is feared and we have

On how ship

# NO 4 CANADIAN GENERAL HOSPITAL

(UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO)

Nov. 8.

Dear Mr President

The Hospital is again at

sea on our way we hope to our  
final destination. We left

Glennachie yesterday morning,

this time on a Hospital ship

a much less numerous function

to be in so our boat is packed

or brilliant white with large

red crosses on the side and

at night has a large red

cross in electric lights on

each side and a string of

green lights from bow to stern

the most beautiful are full

blaze, a pleasant change from

the "transit" where we

wandered about in complete



As you know the dysentery <sup>3</sup>  
is almost entirely absent.  
But so far the malarial  
spread of the disease has  
not been cleared up. The  
bureau of Medicine Services  
General Bapiste is in touch  
with us and he believes this  
morning that he was convinced  
that the malarial at Gaezefi  
was not water borne. However  
carried the infection has  
been massive and in all  
the Hospital there are cases  
complicating wounds or  
enteric. In fact it is likely  
that a great majority of the  
troops in the Punimulan are  
more or less infected. Besides  
amoebic typh, there are a  
number of milder enteric

darkness.

2  
We had a little over  
a week in Alexandria and  
we all had the chance to spend  
a day in Cairo. It was most  
interesting, the more so as it  
was so entirely unexpected.

In Alexandria I found  
Sir Ronald Ross, the authority  
on Tropical diseases and had  
ample opportunity of visiting  
the Royal Free Hospital where he  
has his laboratory established.

The problems are entirely  
new to me. At Royal Free, the  
Laboratory staff and equipment  
are specially good and there  
are about one thousand patients  
plenty of opportunity for work.  
Ross is leaving for England

this week to collect a research  
staff to bring back here for  
the investigation of dysentery.



NO 4 CANADIAN GENERAL HOSPITAL

(UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO)

all been accomplished against it. There is no typhus as yet; but it is more than probable that we will have cases before the winter is over.

There are 3 great outbreaks of typhus with all of Constantinople and died some succumbing on our own work. There was the usual extraordinary number of fragments of pottery showing in layers, including down the hill side for twenty feet or more. I am afraid something will come up this time at our front.



I am struggling with the  
back, and - in fact - without  
much success. I am going  
to take it up seriously, when  
I get better.

Today has been very  
interesting; a perfect day.  
Before lunch we passed  
Cox and just after lunch  
we passed quite close to  
Palmer. The Islands are  
extraordinarily bare and  
barren and only rarely does  
one see signs of villages  
or towns.

We expect to land  
tomorrow somewhere and  
then our every time begins.

1  
We will be a big improvement  
getting settled and from  
all we hear there has been  
a great deal of rain and  
the roads are very bad  
so that the lower part of our  
big expedition will be  
hampered. But we are all  
delighted at the news  
promptly with.

With kind regards to all  
I remain  
Dear Sir

Yours sincerely

W. H. Woodhouse



December 29th, 1915

Professor J. J. Mackenzie,  
No. 4 Canadian General Hospital,  
Salonica, Greece.

My dear Professor Mackenzie:

I should have written to you some time ago, but for one cause or another I have overlooked it. We have got arrangements made for the carrying on of the work in Pathology, though we miss you very much. O. R. Mabey is acting as head, and he has some others associated with him. Hunter of course is here and I think is gradually getting into the work.

When the Governors granted you leave they followed the precedent of all the other cases where members of our staff holding full-time positions are at the front and have put you on half pay. However, at a later meeting of the Governors I had the matter again discussed, and I have no doubt that now this position will be improved and that your salary will in all probability be lessened only by the amount that we have to pay for getting the work done. This should give you a considerable addition to the half pay allowance that was first granted. I am hardly in a position to-day to say what the work will cost, but up to the present it is approximately \$550 and there are some appointments yet to be made.

I have had letters from Roberts and from Primrose who tell us something of your doings. You must have a pretty

hard time. Mrs. Falconer also had a letter from Mrs. Mackenzie last week. It was very kind of her to write at this time. Judging by this morning's news you may possibly not have the active work at Salonica that we have expected.

Yesterday Colonel Naswith, who is out on leave of absence, told me that you had a better position there than any of the Hospitals in France as far as active service was concerned, but perhaps this may turn out to be not the case. At any rate we all hope that you will keep safe and sound.

As you will realise we are feeling the war more and more all the time. Though there is a good attendance in Medicine the other Faculties are much smaller, and enlistment is going on constantly, and will do so increasingly after January. A large number of the staff also are away. It is of course impossible to have any opinion that is worth anything, but we hope that by this time next year you will be back. Please give my kind regards to Graham and any others that may be on your staff.

Yours sincerely,

President.



January 27th, 1916

Professor J. J. Mackenzie,

No. 4 Canadian General Hospital.

My dear Professor Mackenzie:

Dr. Boddington writes me that he did last year the work in Pathology in St. Michael's Hospital but got no salary because he was not appointed. The same thing has happened this year, but Dr. Wabee has nominated him and to-day I am putting the appointment through the Board. I assure that this is an oversight, but I do not like to take action until I hear from you definitely on the matter.

There is a probability of a session for the fourth and fifth year students this summer, beginning May 1st and ending November 30th, and that those who are now concluding their fourth year will take that fifth year immediately, those who enlist for overseas service being allowed to get their degree in the autumn and the rest to have it deferred until next spring. This will involve a small fifth year next winter simply for those whom the War Office has sent out. It will be a heavy burden on the staff, but it is undertaken at the request of the military authorities. There will be one month's holiday in the summer. This at least is the proposal of the Medical Faculty which went through yesterday evening. Probably the Governors will accede to it. You will see therefore that while you have hard work at the front, it is not very easy for the members of the staff who are left. In fact the Hospital people are getting somewhat alarmed. I hope that things are somewhat quieter with you

at the front and that you will not be disturbed by the enemy.

Yesterday Dr. Letts came in to see me. He had been in Southern Bulgaria and spent a day in No. 4 Hospital the beginning of last December. His information was most interesting.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.



February 11th, 1916

Captain J. J. Mackenzie, M.B.,

No. 4 Canadian General Hospital (University of Toronto),

Salonika, Greece.

My dear Professor Mackenzie:

I have written to General Roberts saying that we shall need your services next winter for the fifth year men. Though we have managed to get through this winter reasonably well, the summer session is coming upon us immediately at the close of this term, and we shall have to begin the fifth year in October for the fourth year men who have been sent back from the front now. Dr. Mabee told us a little while ago that it would be necessary if you did not return to bring somebody in from outside, and I do not know where we can get him. I should think that when you have done a good year's work at Salonika, you and Graham will have got the Hospital into such order that you could be spared for the winter at least. Will you kindly speak to General Roberts about this and if you agree to our proposal I will communicate at once with the authorities to arrange for your release?

I am going to Ottawa next week to see whether we cannot get some recognition for members of our staff who are compelled to remain at home in order to do the work of the Hospitals and the Faculty of Medicine. A great many of them are restless and wish to get to the front, but we must carry on our whole services.

We are glad to know that you all escaped



from the danger that threatened you when the aviators visited the camp. We hope that you will escape in the future also.

It seems to us at this distance that the delay of the enemy in attacking Salonika is due to internal Balkan troubles. At any rate it is giving you at Salonika plenty of time to get into fine defensive positions.

Students are beginning to go away in large numbers. Last night at the second year Medical Dinner there were four who had obtained Commissions in the Imperial Army the day before and are leaving shortly.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.